

Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Working paper submitted by the members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates)

1. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative views the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as one of the most serious challenges to the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime centred on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We acknowledge the recent statements by that country announcing the suspension of nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missile launches and the closure of its Punggye-ri test site as a first step, if fully implemented, towards complete denuclearization. However, we need to ensure that the country's recent engagement with other countries will turn into concrete actions towards the goal of the complete, verifiable and irreversible abandonment by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its nuclear weapons and programmes for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles.

2. The past Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have remained seized of the provocative actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a long period of time. In the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, the Conference strongly urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including the complete and verifiable abandonment of all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in accordance with the Joint Statement of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks of September 2005, and to return, at an early date, to the Treaty and to adhere to its International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreement. The Conference also called on it and all States parties to fully implement all relevant nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament obligations. The Conference reaffirmed its firm support for the Six-Party Talks and expressed its determination to achieve a satisfactory and comprehensive resolution of the issues involved through diplomatic means. At the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference in 2017, the Initiative submitted a working paper on this issue and 62 countries supported a statement entitled "Democratic People's



Republic of Korea's nuclear challenge to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" (see [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/13](#)).

3. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has conducted nuclear tests in repeated violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, most recently on 2 September 2017. On 11 September 2017, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2375 \(2017\)](#), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and reaffirmed its decisions, including that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should immediately abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes. That resolution also contains unprecedentedly strong sanction measures against that country.

4. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has also continued its ballistic missile programmes; it has launched 40 ballistic missiles, including some with the range of intercontinental ballistic missiles, since 2016, most recently on 28 November 2017. Those ballistic missile launches are also in grave violation of the country's obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, and the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2397 \(2017\)](#) on 22 December 2017, in which it condemned the ballistic missile launch of 28 November 2017 and imposed further strong sanction measures on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

5. Considering the situation regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Initiative expresses the following points and recommends that the next Review Conference remain seized of the matter:

- The nuclear- and missile-related activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are clear violations of the relevant Security Council resolutions as well as of the 2005 Joint Statement and represent a grave challenge to the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime centred on the Treaty.
- The Initiative condemns, in the strongest terms, the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It notes that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea claimed that the test conducted in September 2017 was a hydrogen bomb test and that its scale was far larger than previous tests. The Initiative strongly condemns the country's ongoing nuclear activities. The Initiative urges the country not to conduct any further nuclear tests or launches that use ballistic missile technology, nor to engage in any other destabilizing or provocative actions.
- The Initiative condemns, in the strongest terms, the ballistic missile activities carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, some of which flew over the territory of Japan, and notes that such activities contribute to the development by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of nuclear weapons delivery systems and further increase tensions. In this regard, the Initiative notes that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched ballistic missiles with the range of intercontinental ballistic missiles on 4 July, 28 July and 29 November 2017.
- The Initiative reaffirms that, in accordance with the Treaty, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State.
- The Initiative renews its strong demand for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately and fully implement the relevant Security Council resolutions as well as the 2005 Joint Statement, to immediately abandon its nuclear weapons and programmes for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and to return, at an early date, to the Treaty and to the IAEA safeguards agreement with a view to achieving the country's denuclearization.

- The proliferation and sanctions evasion activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are of great concern to the international non-proliferation regime. It is important that we do not allow any "loopholes" in the sanctions. The international community must continue applying maximum pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by fully implementing the sanctions imposed by all relevant Security Council resolutions with a view to moving towards the goal of the complete, verifiable and irreversible abandonment by that country of its nuclear weapons and programmes for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. The Initiative notes that the Council has expressed its determination to take further significant measures in the event of further provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
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